

California Student Aid Commission
Student Impact, Outreach and Communications Committee

Item 7

(Information Item)

Update on the Golden State Teachers Grant program

SUMMARY:

This item provides an update on the implementation of the Golden State Teachers Grant program.

RECOMMENDATION:

This is an informational item only; no action is required.

BACKGROUND:

The Golden State Teachers Grant program (GSTG) was initially established in the 2019 Budget Act (Senate Bill 109, Chapter 363, Statutes of 2019) with program details delineated in the trailer bill (Senate Bill 75, Chapter 51, Statutes of 2019) with a total appropriation of nearly \$89 million to provide \$20,000 awards for teaching candidates who agreed to teach in a high need school for four years. Failure to fulfill the required teaching service requires repayment of the grant amount.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the uncertainty of available state resources, no grants were processed for the 2019-20 academic year. Assembly Bill 89 (Chapter 7, Statutes of 2020) reverted the funding provided in the 2019 Budget Act and those funds were replaced with \$15 million from the federal Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA) funds through the California Department of Education (CDE). These federal funds were authorized to make awards of up to \$20,000 for teacher candidates who agreed to teach special education in high need schools beginning in the 2020-21 academic year.

Based on recommendations from Commission staff and institutional financial aid administrators, Senate Bill 116 (Chapter 25, Statutes of 2020) amended the program to authorize GSTG grants in an amount up to \$20,000 to accommodate campus financial aid packaging and cost of attendance rules. Senate Bill 116 also extended the availability of funds through June 30, 2023 and required teaching credential candidates to be enrolled in an approved teaching preparation program within a California institution of higher education.

Current Application Status:

A total of 753 GSTG applications have been submitted to date with 639 of those applications from special education teaching credential candidates enrolled in approved teacher preparation programs for the 2020-21 academic year. As of May 25,

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2021, approximately 300 applicants have been confirmed as eligible and have signed their Teaching Agreements. Based on eligible program participants, the average amount of the grant is approximately \$15,500. The table below provides information on the applications submitted to date.

2020-21 Golden State Teacher Grant Applications and Status

Institution Segment	Total Applications	Special Education	Payments Processed
UC	6	1	0
CSU	257	206	65
Private	490	432	202
Total	753	639	267

2021-22 Budget Update:

In the January 2021-22 Governor's proposed budget, the Governor proposed an increase of \$100 million for the Golden State Teachers Grant program to continue the program in 2021-22 and to expand eligibility from Special Education to all high need teaching areas. The Governor's May Revision proposes to; 1) increase the \$100 million augmentation to \$500 million - potentially over 5 years, 2) add Transitional Kindergarten to the eligible teaching service list, and 3) open the program to teaching candidates in university and district teacher internship programs.

RESPONSIBLE PERSON(S):

Tae Kang, Deputy Director
Program Administration Services Division

Steve Caldwell, Assistant Deputy Director
Customer Relations Branch

ATTACHMENT(S):

Golden State Teachers Grant program presentation presented on June, 23, 2021